

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 CAB-02 COME-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 FAA-00
IO-13 MCT-01 SY-05 /098 W
-----027264 100839Z /11

R 091741Z NOV 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3001
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 18730

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, EAIR, AG, GW
SUBJECT: ALGERIANS BALK AT LUFTHANSA SECURITY MEASURES

REF: ALGIERS 2782

SUMMARY: ONE FLIGHT FROM ALGIERS TO THE FRG HAS
ALREADY BEEN CANCELLED AND MORE ARE POSSIBLE IF NO
AGREEMENT IS REACHED ON STATIONING OF FRG BORDER
GUARDS AT ALGIERS AIRPORT. A HIGH-LEVEL GERMAN
DELEGATION IS EXPECTED TO TRAVEL TO ALGIERS SOON.
END SUMMARY.

1. IN A MEETING YESTERDAY ON ANOTHER TOPIC, FOREIGN
OFFICE STATE SECRETARY VAN WELL TOLD THE AMBASSADOR
THAT ALL COUNTRIES SERVICED BY LUFTHANSA, EXCEPT
ALGERIA, HAD AGREED TO INCREASED ANTI-TERRORIST
SECURITY MEASURES. (THESE MEASURES INCLUDE THE
SENDING OF FRG BORDER GUARDS TO
FOREIGN AIRPORTS WHERE THEY ARE TO WATCH CHECKING
PASSENGERS PRIOR TO BOARDING THE AIRCRAFT. BORDER
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GUARDS ARE UNARMED AND DRESSED AS LUFTHANSA
PERSONNEL.)

2. ACCORDING TO VAN WELL, THE ALGERIANS WERE STILL
ARGUING OVER EXACTLY WHERE THE GUARDS WOULD BE
ALLOWED TO STAND (IN OR OUTSIDE THE AIRCRAFT) AND WHAT
AUTHORITY THEY WOULD HAVE (CHECKING PASSENGERS OR

ONLY SUPERVISING ALGERIAN PERSONNEL IN MAKING CHECKS.)
VAN WELL CONFIRMED PRESS REPORTS THAT A SCHEDULED BIWEEKLY
ALGIERS/FRG FLIGHT HAD BEEN CANCELLED (NOVEMBER 8)
AND THAT MORE CANCELLATIONS WERE POSSIBLE UNLESS
SOME AGREEMENT WAS REACHED.

3. VAN WELL VOLUNTEERED THAT SINCE THE DIFFICULTIES
SEEM TO COME FROM TOP LEVELS OF THE ALGERIAN GOVERN-
MENT, THE FRG PLANS TO SEND A HIGH-LEVEL DELEGATION
TO ALGIERS WITHIN THE NEXT SEVERAL DAYS TO DISCUSS
THE ISSUE. THIS DELEGATION WILL PROBABLY NOT
INCLUDE MINISTER OF STATE WISCHNEWSKI. (THE FRG
IS SAVING THEIR "BIG GUN" UNTIL LATER, IF NECESSARY.)

4. COMMENT: THE FOREIGN OFFICE HAS DENIED REPORTS
IT ISSUED AN "ULTIMATUM" TO ALGERIA AND LIBYA THAT
FLIGHTS WOULD BE CANCELLED UNLESS AGREEMENT WAS
REACHED PERMITTING GERMAN BORDER GUARDS TO INSPECT
PASSENGERS BEFORE BOARDING. (PRESS REPORTS
INDICATE LIBYA AGREED TO ACCEPT BORDER GUARDS ON
NOVEMBER 7.) NEVERTHELESS, THE CANCELLATION OF
YESTERDAY'S FLIGHT SEEMS TO UNDERLINE THE FRG'S
SERIOUS INTENT.
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